

✓

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

MEDICAL SOCIETY

OF THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED THE

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY.

WASHINGTON.

A. B. CLAXTON AND CO., PRINTERS.

1839.

Annex

W B

1
ADB

M4c

1839

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
TO WHICH IS PREFIXED THE
ACT OF INCORPORATION.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY.

WASHINGTON:

A. B. CLAXTON AND CO., PRINTERS.

1839.

Copyright

MEDICAL SOCIETY

OF

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

TO WHOM IT MAY COME

LET OF THE CORPORATION

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY

WASHINGTON

E. F. TAYLOR AND CO. PRINTERS

1882

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

AN ACT to revive, with amendments, an Act to incorporate the Medical Society of the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Frederick May, M. D., Alexander McWilliams, Henry Hunt, M. D., N. P. Causin, M. D., Wm. Jones, Richmond Johnson, Thomas Sewall, M. D., George W. May, M. D., Nicholas W. Worthington, M. D., James Reily, M. D., James S. Gunnell, M. D., Harvey Lindsly, M. D., James C. Hall, M. D., Thomas Miller, M. D., James† Borrows, M. D., Alexander McD. Davis, M. D., Benjamin King, M. D., Noble Young, M. D., H. F. Condict, M. D., W. B. Magruder, M. D., Perry‡ Warfield, M. D., J. B. Blake, M. D., and such other persons as they may, from time to time, elect, and their successors, are hereby declared to be a community, corporation, and body politic, for ever, or until Congress shall by law direct this charter to cease and determine, by and under the name and title of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia; and by and under the same name and title they shall be able and capable in law to purchase, take, have, and enjoy, to them and their successors, in fee or for lease, estate or estates, any land, tenements, rents, annuities, chattels, bank stock, registered debts, or other public securities within the District, by the gift, bargain, sale, demise, or of any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, capable to make the same, and the same, at their pleasure, to alien, sell, transfer, or lease, and apply, to such purposes as they may adjudge most conducive to the promoting and disseminating medical and surgical knowledge, and for no other purpose whatever: *Provided, nevertheless*, That the said society or body politic shall not, at any one time, hold or possess property, real, personal, or mixed, exceeding in total value the sum of six thousand dollars per annum.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the members of the said society above designated shall hold, in the City of Washington, two stated meetings in every year, viz: on the first Monday in January and July; the officers of the society to consist of a President, two Vice Presidents, one Corresponding Secretary, one Recording Secretary, one Treasurer, and one Librarian, who shall be appointed on the first Monday in July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight, and on the annual meeting in January for ever thereafter, and who shall hold their offices for one year,

* Should be *Joshua*. † Should be *Joseph*. ‡ Should be *Peregrine*.

and until others are chosen in their stead, (not less than seven members being present at such meeting;) and the society may make a common seal, and may elect into their body such medical and chirurgical practitioners, within the District of Columbia, as they may deem qualified to become members of the society, it being understood that the officers of the society now elected are to remain in office until the next election after the passage of this act.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall and may be lawful for the said medical society, or any number of them attending, (not less than seven,) to elect by ballot five persons, residents of the District of Columbia, whose duty it shall be to grant licenses to such medical and chirurgical gentlemen as they may, upon a full examination, judge qualified to practise the medical and chirurgical arts, or as may produce a diploma from some respectable medical college or society, each person so obtaining a certificate to pay a sum, not exceeding ten dollars, to be fixed on or ascertained by the society.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That any three of the examiners shall constitute a board for examining such candidates as may apply, and shall subscribe their names to each certificate by them granted, which certificate shall also be countersigned by the President of the society, and have the seal of the society affixed thereto by the Secretary, upon paying into the hands of the Treasurer the sum of money to be ascertained as above by the society; and any one of the said examiners may grant a license to practise, until a board, in conformity to this act, can be held: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall authorize the said corporation in any wise to regulate the practice of medical or chirurgical attendance on such persons as may need those services, nor to establish or fix a tariff of charges or fees for medical attendance or advice, or to interfere, in any way, with charges or fees for medical attendance or advice.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That, after the appointment of the aforesaid medical board, no person, not heretofore a practitioner of medicine or surgery within the District of Columbia, shall be allowed to practise within the said District, in either of said branches, without first having obtained a license, testified as by this law directed, or the production of a diploma from a respectable medical college or a board of examiners established by law: *Provided*, That the Professors in such college, or the examiners in such board, be men regularly instructed in medicine and surgery, and the collateral branches of medical education, anatomy, chemistry, under the penalty of fifty dollars for each offence, to be recovered in the county court where he may reside, by bill of presentment and indictment; one-half for the use of the society, and the other for that of the informer.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That every person who, upon application, shall be elected a member of the medical society, shall pay a sum not exceeding ten dollars, to be ascertained by the society.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the medical society be, and they are hereby, empowered, from time to time, to make such by-laws, rules, and regulations, as they may find requisite ; which by-laws, rules, and regulations shall, in their application and operation, be exclusively confined to said society, as a society or body corporate, and not to its members individually, when not acting in a corporate character ; to break or alter their common seal ; to fix the times and places for the meetings of the board of examiners, filling up vacancies in the medical board, and to do and perform such other things as may be requisite for carrying this act into execution, and which may not be repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States : *Provided, always*, That it shall and may be lawful for any person resident as aforesaid, and not prohibited as aforesaid, when specially sent for, to come into any part of this District and administer or prescribe medicine, or perform any operation for the relief of such, to whose assistance he may be sent for : *And provided, also*, That nothing in this act contained shall be so construed as to prevent any person, living within or without said District, from administering medicine, or performing any surgical operation, with the consent of the person or the attendants of the person to whom such medicine is administered, or upon whom such surgical operation is performed, without fee or reward ; nor to prevent the giving advice or assistance in any way to the sick, or afflicted, upon charity and kindness, nor to prevent the receipt of reward for the same, if voluntarily tendered or made, nor to extend to midwifery by females ; and any person, so administering medicine, or performing any surgical operation, not authorized to practise physic and surgery agreeably to the provisions of this act, shall be prohibited from collecting any fee or reward for the same by any process at law. *And be it further provided*, That no person shall be admitted to an examination, until he shall produce satisfactory evidence that he has studied physic and surgery three years, including one full course of medical lectures as usually taught at medical schools, or four years without such a course of lectures.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That Congress may at any time alter, amend, or annul this act of incorporation of said society at pleasure.

JAMES K. POLK,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

RH. M. JOHNSON,

Vice President of the United States, and President of the Senate.

APPROVED, July 7th, 1838.

M. VAN BUREN.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This Society shall be called the Medical Society of the District of Columbia.

ARTICLE II.

The objects of this Society shall be, the granting of licenses agreeably to the provisions of the charter, and the consideration and promotion of all subjects connected with medicine, and the collateral branches of the science.

ARTICLE III.

SEC. 1. The meetings of this Society shall be held semi-annually in the city of Washington; viz. on the first Mondays in January and July, and on its own adjournments.

SEC. 2. Special meetings shall be called by the President, or one of the Vice Presidents, on application being made in writing by three of the members.

ARTICLE IV.

SEC. 1. There shall be the following officers of this Society, viz. one President, two Vice Presidents, one Corresponding Secretary, one Recording Secretary, one Treasurer, and one Librarian.

SEC. 2. The officers of the Medical Society shall be chosen from the resident members, and be elected by ballot by a majority of the members present, at the stated meeting in January in every year.

ARTICLE V.

SEC. 1. The Society shall consist of Honorary and Resident members, and fellows.

SEC. 2. Any person, not residing in the District of Columbia, who has obtained a degree in medicine, or is eminent in the practice of physic, or any of the branches thereof, may be proposed as an Honorary member. He shall be proposed by two members, at one stated meeting, ballotted for at the next, and a majority of two-thirds of the members present shall be required for his admission.

SEC. 3. Resident members shall consist of medical gentlemen residing in the District of Columbia ; and for their admission it shall be necessary that they shall have received a diploma from some University, or shall be considered respectable in the practice of medicine. They shall signify their desire to be elected, shall be recommended to the Society by the Board of Examiners at least one stated meeting before being balloted for, and it shall then require the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present for their admission ; and every member so elected shall pay a fee of five dollars to the Treasurer.

SEC. 4. In all propositions for the admission of Honorary or Resident members, the names of the proposers shall be annexed to that of the candidate on the minutes.

SEC. 5. All those who have been Resident members for the space of two years, shall be considered as Fellows of the Medical Society ; and every Honorary member, who shall make a communication on any subject connected with medicine or the collateral branches of medical science, which communication being received and approved by the Society, may be elected a Fellow.

ARTICLE VI.

If any member be desirous of leaving the Society, he shall signify it in a written communication ; which being read, shall lie over till the ensuing meeting ; when, with the consent of the Society, his resignation shall be accepted ; but he shall not be permitted to resign until he have discharged the arrears due from him to the Society.

ARTICLE VII.

Members of the Society may prepare dissertations on subjects connected with medicine, or report in writing important cases in surgery or the practice of physic, which shall be directed to the President, who shall submit them to the Society for perusal. When permitted, the author, if present, shall read his own communication ; otherwise it shall be read by the Secretary, and it shall then be optional with the Society to enter into a general discussion of its merits.

ARTICLE VIII.

All propositions for altering the constitution shall lie over at least one stated meeting, previous to being acted on ; and shall then require the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present for their adoption.

BY-LAWS.

1. OF THE PRESIDENT.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society, to preserve order and decorum; and may fine any member acting disorderly, in a sum not exceeding ten dollars; from whose decision, the member incurring the fine may appeal to the Society.

2. OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS.

In the absence of the President, his duty shall devolve on the Vice-Presidents, so that they shall preside alternately at such meetings of the Society. And if neither the President nor a Vice-President be present, a chairman shall be chosen from the members attending, who shall for that meeting exercise all the privileges and duties of the President.

3. OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to manage all matters of correspondence, in behalf of the Society; to give notice to members and officers of their election; to write and answer letters; and respectfully to solicit from medical Societies, faculties, and individuals, information calculated to benefit the science of medicine; all which correspondence he shall lay before the Society at the next succeeding stated meeting.

4. OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY.

The Recording Secretary shall attend each meeting of the Society; call over the names of the members, and take down the minutes, which he shall read at the next meeting; and which, when corrected, he shall copy into a book kept for that purpose, and to which entry he shall sign his name. He shall also insert the reports of committees at full length; he shall read all letters and papers relating to the business of the Society, which do not particularly belong to the department of the Corresponding Secretary; and transcribe into a proper book such of them as the Society may think worthy to be preserved. He shall deliver to the Treasurer a correct statement of the fines incurred at each meeting. If he should be unable to attend a meeting of the Society, he shall give due notice of it by transmitting all the papers required at the meeting.

5. OF THE TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall collect all moneys due to the Society, receive all donations of money which shall be made to the Society, and shall pay the same agreeably to order certified to him by the President, Vice-President, or member who was in the chair when such order was made. He shall keep a regular account of all moneys received and paid by him as aforesaid; and once every year, or oftener, if required by the Society, shall render a statement of the funds in his hands, and of the disbursements; and shall deliver up to his successor the books and all papers belonging to the Society, together with the balance of cash; and for the faithful discharge of his trust, shall give satisfactory security to the President, within one month after being appointed.

6. OF THE LIBRARIAN.

The Librarian shall take charge of, and preserve for the use of the Society, all property of whatever kind it may be, money excepted, of which the Society may become possessed, and keep a correct list of the same, together with the respective names of the donors, in a book provided for that purpose; which book shall be laid before the Society as often as called for. The Librarian shall give such a receipt for every thing committed to his care or charge, as the Society may direct; and, at the end of his term, shall deliver up the same to his successor. He shall report the state of the library to the Society at its annual meeting in each year.

7. OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

A Board of Examiners, consisting of five resident members, shall be elected by ballot at each annual meeting, whose duty it shall be to grant licenses, upon the payment of five dollars, to such medical and chirurgical gentlemen as they may, upon a full examination, judge qualified to practise the medical and chirurgical arts. No one shall be admitted to an examination until he shall, in conformity with the requisitions of the charter, produce a diploma from some respectable medical college or society, and shall furnish satisfactory evidence that he has studied physic and surgery three years, including one full course of medical lectures as usually taught at the medical schools, or four years without such a course of lectures. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for business, and the senior practitioner shall be chairman. Any one of the Examiners may grant temporary licenses to practise, during the intervals of the meetings of the Board. The Board shall keep a record of its proceedings, to be reported to the Society at its annual meeting.

8. OF COMMITTEES.

The mode of appointing committees shall be as follows, viz. The President shall appoint one gentleman, who shall be considered as chairman of the committee; he shall name the second, and so on, until the number agreed on shall be completed. But if the business be of an extraordinary or important nature, any member may move that the committee be chosen by ballot; which shall accordingly be done. The chairman of every committee shall appoint a time for its meeting, before he leaves the Society.

9. OF MOTIONS.

Any member may make whatever motion he thinks will tend to the benefit of the Society; his proposal or motion must be given to the President in writing; and it shall be immediately voted or ballotted for, unless a majority of the members present wish it to lie over for consideration. In either case it shall be recorded on the minutes of the Society.

10. OF THE ORDER OF DEBATE.

No member shall interrupt the President, or any other member, while speaking; every member shall stand while speaking, and address himself to the President.

11. OF DECORUM.

No member or members shall be permitted to sit or stand with his or their heads covered.

12. OF ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS.

No member shall be permitted to retire after calling his name, without permission from the President, until the Society have adjourned.

13. OF A QUORUM.

At each meeting of the Society, any number not less than seven shall constitute a quorum.

14. OF VISITERS.

Medical men, or men learned in the collateral branches of science, on a visit to the District of Columbia, not members of this Society, may be permitted to attend meetings, on being introduced by a member of the Society.

15. ROUTINE OF BUSINESS.

At each meeting of the Society, as soon as the President takes the chair, and the meeting is constituted, the following shall be the order of proceeding :

- 1st. The roll shall be called.
- 2d. The minutes shall be read.
- 3d. The election of candidates for membership.
- 4th. Nomination of candidates for membership.
- 5th. Report of Treasurer.
- 6th. Reports of Committees.
- 7th. Reports of the Corresponding Secretary.
- 8th. Medical papers and essays, read or presented for consideration.

16. OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

The expenses of the Society shall be defrayed by the fees paid into the Treasury, and by special assessments made upon the resident members, from time to time, as occasion may require ; and any member, who shall neglect to pay his assessment for three years, except in case of absence from the District, shall forfeit his membership.

17. The preceding constitutional ordinance and by-laws, being adopted for the future regulation of the Society, all others not contained in this summary are hereby repealed ; and all propositions for altering the foregoing shall lay over for one stated meeting, at least, before being acted upon.